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Redevelopment authority awards renovation contracts

By Josh Krysak , Herald-Standard

The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority awarded three contracts Wednesday for renovations at their newly purchased office building in Uniontown.

Last month the authority secured a \$330,000 loan to purchase the building at 86 W. Main St. in Uniontown to use as headquarters.

Executive Director Andrew French said the loan, secured through Centra Bank, includes \$130,000 for renovations to the building.

During their regular session Wednesday, the authority awarded a \$174,657 general construction contract to Fairchance Construction for upgrades at the building.

Additionally, the authority awarded a \$25,080 contract to Gilleland & Merkosky Services of Uniontown for heating, ventilation and air-conditioning work at the building and a \$43,090 contract to George R. Smalley Co. of Hopwood for electrical work.

French said that while the total renovations exceed the budgeted \$130,000 by more than \$100,000, the authority should be able to "shift resources in operational reserves" and come up with the additional funding.

And, the authority members stressed that the move would be a savings to the authority in the long run with their current monthly rental payments exceeding their monthly mortgage costs.

The authority currently pays rent of \$3,138.75 a month at 45 E. Main St., Uniontown.

French said the authority will realize a saving of about \$600 a month with the new \$2,516 monthly mortgage payment.

The new building was formerly the location of the Farwell printing business.

The building contains 22,064 square feet, including 7,000 square feet on the first floor.

The authority also approved a new lease agreement with a small business currently operating in the building - Creation Station - that will continue to occupy a small portion of the first floor of the building. French noted that even with the business still operating at the site the authority will have about 5,000 square feet of space on the first floor alone.

French said the authority plans to relocate the 12 office employees now on two floors at 45 E. Main St. to the site, while leaving the five employees at the John Street weatherization office where they currently work.

He said the top two floors of the Farwell building used to contain about 15 apartments, but they haven't been occupied since about 1980. Also, he said the basement used to house the Slovak Club.

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